CLAIMS   (TI-35536)

What is claimed is:

1. A method of estimating motion vectors for downsampled blocks, comprising:
    (a) providing a first plurality of motion vectors and a second plurality of
corresponding DCT blocks;
    (b) for each of said motion vectors computing a magnitude for said corresponding
DCT block(s); and
    (c) estimating a motion vector corresponding to a downsampling of said DCT blocks
by scaling the one of said motion vectors which has a minimum magnitude for
corresponding DCT block(s) in step (b).

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:
    (a) each of said motion vectors corresponds to a 2x2 array of 8x8 DCT blocks; and
    (b) said magnitude of step (b) of claim 1 is the sum of squares of the elements of
said four 8x8 DCT blocks.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein:
    (a) said 8x8 DCT blocks are the discrete cosine transforms of luminance prediction
error blocks.